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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/716,295	11/18/2003	Barry Bronson	10003500-2	6941

7590 04/19/2007  
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P. O. Box 272400  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

SORRELL, ERON J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2182

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/19/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/716,295

Applicant(s)

BRONSON, BARRY

Examiner

Eron J. Sorrell

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 21-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. It is noted that this application appears to claim subject matter disclosed in prior Application No. 09/688,706, filed 10/17/2000. A reference to the prior application must be inserted as the first sentence(s) of the specification of this application or in an application data sheet (37 CFR 1.76), if applicant intends to rely on the filing date of the prior application under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121, or 365(c). See 37 CFR 1.78(a). For benefit claims under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121, or 365(c), the reference must include the relationship (i.e., continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part) of all nonprovisional applications.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

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3. Claims 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C: 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swamy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,350 hereinafter "Swamy") in view of Chidester et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,669,015 hereinafter "Chidester").

4. Referring to claim 21, Swamy teaches a system, comprising:  
a computer having a processor (see item 200 in figure 2);  
a receiver system coupled to the processor (see item 210, operatively coupled to the processor by bus 214); and  
an input/output (I/O) device (item 230 in figure 2), removably connected to the computer (see figure 3), and is operable when removed from the computer and functions as a remote control for wirelessly communicating commands to the processor through the receiver system (see paragraph bridging columns 2 and 3).

Swamy fails to teach the I/O device is inoperable when connected to the computer.

Chidester teaches, in a computer having a processor, and a connected I/O device that is inoperable (see lines 7-21 of column 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the removably connected I/O device of Swamy with the above teachings

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of Chidester so that the I/O device will be inoperable when connection<sup>ed</sup> to the computer. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such modification in give the user the an option to disable the I/O device to reduce possible operator errors due to the proximity of the I/O device to the keyboard as suggested by Chidester (see lines 39-47 of column 1).

5. Referring to claim 23, Swamy teaches each control button may be configured so that, when pressed, an action is performed, and wherein the action comprises at least one function selected from the group consisting of: displaying a next screen generate by the processor; displaying a previous screen generated by the processor; displaying a blank test pattern screen generated by the processor; displaying a time screen generated by the processor; displaying a presentation title screen generate by the processor; activating a laser pointer light; controlling lights of a room; controlling an electronic projector;, and controlling an external multimedia source. (see lines 31-50 of column 3, wherein Swamy discloses at least controlling the display).

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6. Claims 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swamy in view of Chidester as applied to claim 21 above, and further in view of Hatakeyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,545,587 hereinafter "Hatakeyama").

7. Referring to claim 22 the combination of Swamy and Chidester teach the apparatus of claim 21 as shown above, however the combination fails to teach the I/O device comprises one or more independently reconfigurable control buttons.

Hatakeyama teaches the above limitation (see lines 1-8 of column 11).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Swamy and Chidester with the above teachings of Hatakeyama. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such modification in order to control new devices as they are added to the system.

8. Referring to claim 24, Hatakeyama teaches the I/O device further comprises a display, the display may perform at least one function selected from group consisting of: displaying a time associated with a presentation; displaying a light

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associated with a predetermined time limit for a presentation (see item 82 in figure 8).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Swamy and Chidester for the same reasons as mentioned above.

#### *Allowable Subject Matter*

9. Claims 1-16 are allowed.

#### *Response to Arguments*

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### *Conclusion*

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eron J. Sorrell whose telephone number is 571 272-4160. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Huynh can be reached on 571-272-4147. The fax phone number for the

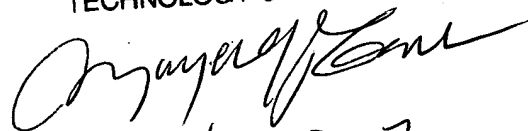
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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EJS  
April 10, 2007

TANH Q. NGUYEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

  
April 12, 2007